

## ***What Happens After Death ( A Reply to Jehovah's Witnesses)***

Christians and Muslims believe, on the basis of their sacred scriptures, that humans are more than just body; they are also spirit. The scriptures show that the spirit remains after the body dies, that the spirit retains conscious existence, and that the spirit will be given a new body at the Resurrection. Moreover, in addition to a real Paradise there exists a real Hell where unbelievers will remain in continuous torment.

Jehovah's Witnesses deny all of these on the basis of their interpretation of their own translation of the Bible. To foster this interpretation they mistranslate certain key verses, misinterpret others, and ignore yet others. They then use their position with apparent

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Backing from scripture to condemn Christendom and Islam for belief in the spirit, the existence after death, and the existence of Hell. The ruling body of Jehovah's Witness, the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society draws constant attention to these points in their literature. For example, in their book *Mankind's Search for God* they continually remind their readers that Islam is false for these very beliefs. More recently, a booklet from them *What Happens to Us When We Die* continues along the same lines. When dealing with the Islamic view on these matters the booklet plainly states that these beliefs are in the Qur'an due to influence from Greek philosophers. On the contrary I will show here that these beliefs came from God although others might have shared the same concepts. The Qur'an is not a compilation of human ideas but the verbatim words of God.

Muslims do not claim that every truth in the Qur'an was revealed for the first time. On the contrary, we hold that God had sent prophets and messengers to every nation with his pure message. To the extent that those messages were corrupted over time they will necessarily differ with God's pure message now revealed once more in his incorruptible book, the Glorious Qur'an. Moreover, the pure parts that remain of the previous messages will necessarily be in harmony with the last message.

Muslims are therefore not surprised to find that some of the truth which God revealed in the Qur'an was already known to the Greeks. It is true that Greek philosophy is far removed from Islam. Yet it will be too much to claim that all of Greek philosophy is necessarily wrong. Where it is right it will be in harmony with God's revealed messages. Once we establish here that a divine message contains the concepts which we are discussing, it should not matter what the Greeks used to believe. To illustrate the point, once we find that Scripture teaches us to be honest, it is irrelevant whether or not Greeks, Vikings, or anyone else held the same principle.

The Watchtower Society claims that Greek influence is to blame for these beliefs also in Christendom. By Christendom they mean not true Christianity, a designation they retain for themselves. By Christendom they mean the later Christianity which deviated from the Bible's teachings as interpreted by The Watchtower Society. However, the evidence here will show that these beliefs are in the Bible also.

If these ideas came from Greek influence then how will the Society explain the presence of such ideas in the Bible? Since the Society accepts the Bible as the Word of God they will have to accept that the beliefs we discuss here are from God even if the Greeks already understood or held these beliefs. The Society may be willing to accept the fact that other peoples already had insight into some of the same truth which God revealed later in the Bible.

Moreover, The Society will no longer be able to reject the Qur'an on account of such teachings, since such teachings are in harmony with what is in the Bible. To settle the matter for Jehovah's Witnesses, then, it would be reasonable to examine what the Bible says on the matter at hand.